

BENTON, ILL.

SHAWNEE LIBRARY SYSTEM

APR 1976

CITY *of* BENTON

MUNICIPAL OPEN HOUSE

INSPECTION OF CITY PROPERTY

One O'clock to Five O'clock P. M.

Sunday, May 2nd, 1937

MID-TERM COUNCIL MEETING

Seven Thirty O'clock P. M.

Monday, May 3rd, 1937

PURPOSES

To interest citizens of Benton in their Municipal government,
and to inform them as to the procedure followed.

To give citizens a basis for enabling them to educate them-
selves as to the principles upon which good
municipal government rest.



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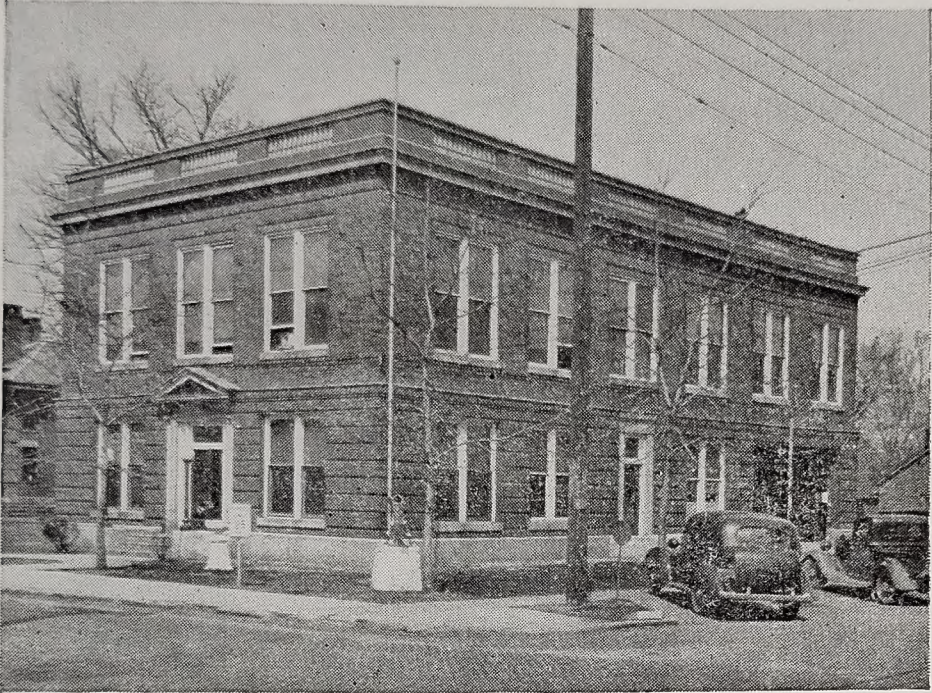
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CITY HALL

PAST SERVICE RECORD

1913-1915

*Sidney B. Espy, Mayor

Kirby Dunn, Commissioner

*A. M. Duncan, Commissioner

*Alva Summers, Commissioner

Clyde Stark, Commissioner

1915-1919

Spruel C. D. Rea, Mayor

W. W. Munday, Commissioner

Hosea Rea, Commissioner

T. O. Rotramel, Commissioner

*F. L. Skinner, Commissioner

1919-1923

*F. L. Skinner, Mayor

*Wesley L. Payne, Commissioner

Roy E. Adams, Commissioner

Bernard Cosgrove, Commissioner

*W. F. Burkett, Commissioner

1923-1927

G. N. Lampley, Mayor

Bernard Cosgrove, Commissioner

C. F. Settlemoir, Commissioner

Charles Ruemmler, Commissioner

Joe Scarborough, Commissioner

1927-1931

J. Smith Moore, Mayor

Ray Davis, Commissioner

Harry Stowers, Commissioner

Joe Scarborough, Commissioner

Seba Marshall, Commissioner.

1931-1935

Joe Scarborough, Mayor

Chas. A. Jackson, Jr., Commissioner

Herman Page, Commissioner

Louie C. Martin, Commissioner

Arleie Floro, Commissioner

*Deceased.

SYNOPSIS OF COMPOSITE PARTS OF YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

By HON. C. EDWIN HAIR, Mayor, and Commissioner
of Public Affairs.

Benton, having adopted Commission Form of Government in the year 1912, is served by a Mayor and four (4) Commissioners, who are elected for a term of four years, and compose what is known as the "City Council."

Immediately upon entering on the duties of office, the City Council, at its first official meeting, assigns the City Commissioners to their respective departments. The Mayor, by statute, becomes the Commissioner of Public Affairs. The Commissioners are assigned as follows:

Commissioner of Accounts and Finance.
Commissioner of Public Health and Safety.
Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements.
Commissioner of Public Property.

The Departmental Heads then proceed to function by naming the assistants in the offices coming under their respective jurisdiction.

DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

Executive and Legislative authority through regulation by ordinance.

Assignment of duties to departments.
Annual tax levy.
Apportion funds for various departments.
Approve payrolls and order payment of bills.
Approve Board Member appointments made by the Mayor.
Acts as Local Board of Improvements.
Acts as Zoning Board.

The City Council meets every Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock for the transaction of business. Adjourned meetings and special meetings are held if needed.

The Mayor is the President of the Council.

The Commissioner of Accounts and Finance is Vice President of the Council and Mayor pro-tem during the absence of the Mayor.

The City Clerk acts as Secretary of the Council.

Special meetings may be called if needed by the Mayor or by two Commissioners upon giving not less than 24 hours notice to all members of the Council; provided, however, that if all members of the Council are present at such meeting no notice of such meeting shall be necessary.

DUTIES OF THE MAYOR

As Mayor is also Commissioner of Public Affairs.
As Mayor is also Commissioner of Police.
As Mayor is also Commissioner of Liquor Control.
Presiding officer of the Council.
President of Local Board of Improvements.
Appointive Power to name Boards which function as a separate unit to the City.
Supervision of Public Utilities rendering service within the City.
Supervision of Municipal Water Works.
Supervision of Law Department.
Supervision of Engineering Department.
General Supervision of all Departments of the City.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

Vice President of the Council.
Mayor pro-tem during absence of Mayor.
Purchasing Agent for the City, and as such reports to the City, Council on all bills or claims against the City.
Supervision of Accounts and Finance.
Supervision of City Clerk.
Supervision of City Treasurer.
Supervision of annual audit, and responsible for the preservation of deeds, documents, records and reports as by law required.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Supervision of the Health Department.
Supervision of sanitation.
Supervision of hygiene.
Supervision of garbage disposal.
Supervision of sewers.
Supervision of dumping ground.
Director of milk and food dispensed within the City and responsible for the enforcement of all health ordinances, and health department quarantines.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Supervision of maintenance of streets and alleys.
Supervision of sidewalks.
Supervision of special assessments.
Supervision of paving projects.
Supervision of private water and sewer taps under streets.
Supervision of private driveways on public property.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Custodian of the City Hall.
Supervision of the Fire Department.
Supervision of Building Inspection, and responsible for the enforcement of building and fire underwriters codes, and ordinances correlated thereto.
Supervision of City Cemetery.
Supervision of Parks and Playgrounds.

BENTON LIBRARY BOARD

The Library Board is composed of nine (9) members, who are appointed by the Mayor, and whose appointments are approved by the Council. The duty of this Board is to supervise and improve the Benton Library for the best interests of Benton citizens.

BENTON YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Youth Community Center Board is composed of seven (7) members, who are appointed by the Mayor, and whose appointments are approved by the Council. The duty of this Board is to supervise and improve the Benton Youth Community Center for the best interests of the girls and boys of Benton.

BOARD OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

This Board is composed of the Mayor and four City Commissioners, with the Mayor acting as President of the Board. It is charged with the initiation and carrying out of all proceedings prescribed by statute, and the execution of work on all local city improvements. They act in cooperation with the Court of jurisdiction under which the improvement was originated. Local Improvements are either initiated on the basis of the petition of those directly affected or by the Board itself, if the improvement is deemed to be necessary and expedient. In case of a majority petition of those interested, the action is mandatory.



CLEVELAND MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Surrounded by flowers and beautiful shrubbery, this Library stands as a permanent monument to the generosity and thoughtfulness of Mr. Andrew S. Cleveland, who personally, during his lifetime, dedicated it:

“To the welfare of the present and future Citizens of Benton.”

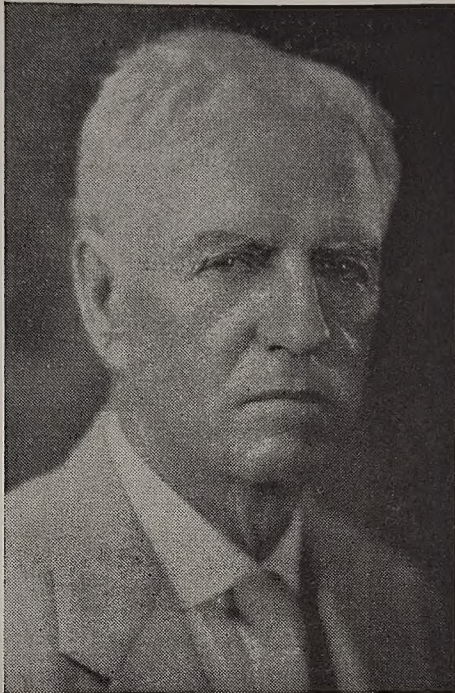
Donated by Mr. Cleveland on December 5, 1929, this building, which had been his home, was formally accepted by the Benton Library Board on December 15, 1929, and after being remodeled for use as a Library, was dedicated by the Library Board on September 20, 1930.

In appreciation of Mr. Cleveland's public-spiritedness, may the Citizens of Benton never be unmindful of their pledge to maintain this Library as a symbol of beauty, progress and service.

As an institution may it breathe the spirit of the donor—a spirit of sincerity and truthfulness, courage, character, and unaffected honesty which gripped the hearts of all who knew him.

C. Edwin Hair, Mayor.

April 18, 1937.



ANDREW S. CLEVELAND

DONOR OF BENTON

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Cleveland was born in the Eastern part of Franklin County on November 1, 1857. When a mere youth he came to Benton to take employment as a Clerk in Chenault's Grocery Store, which was located near the Illinois Central Depot. He spent no money foolishly, and made it a practice to save half of his earnings. Later in life he used his savings to engage in various mercantile enterprises of his own.

In 1912 Mr. Cleveland helped organize the First National Bank of Benton. He later sold his holdings in that bank to assist in the organization of the Mercantile Bank and Trust Company.

Retiring from active business about 1928, Mr. Cleveland moved to Florida to enjoy the sunshine that state offered as a benefit to his declining years. He passed out of this life at Tampa, Florida, Sunday, December 3, 1933. In accordance with a wish previously expressed, funeral services were held from the Library, which had been his home during the major part of his residence in Benton, and his body was buried in the Masonic and Odd Fellows cemetery at Benton on December 8, 1933.



CITY COUNCIL

LEFT TO RIGHT:

J. F. McCollum, City Clerk; C. Edwin Hair, Mayor; Harry H. Prindle, Commissioner; Marion M. Hart, Corporation Counsel; M. J. Hanagan, City Attorney; Roy Vineyard, City Engineer, Chas. A. Jackson, Jr., Commissioner; A. C. Denham, Commissioner; Jesse E. Jones, Commissioner.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TERM

May, 1935, to May, 1939

MAYOR

C. Edwin Hair

—:—

COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

Harry H. Prindle

—:—

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Charles A. Jackson, Jr.

—:—

COMMISSIONER OF STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

A. C. Denham

—:—

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Jesse E. Jones

—:—

Stanley B. Brown,
Police Magistrate.
Term, 1935-1939

Paul A. Jones,
Judge of the City Court.
Term, 1931-1937

APPOINTED OFFICERS and Employes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Law Department:

Marion M. Hart,
Corporation Counsel.

Michael J. Hanagan,
City Attorney.

Police Department:

Ralph R. Newman,
Chief of Police.

Fred J. Schultz,
Policeman.

Basil Smothers,
Policeman.

James S. Pritchard,
Merchant Policeman.

Water Department:

Herman Garner,
Superintendent.

Marion J. Moore,
Water Revenue Collector.

Glenn Edwards,
Billing Clerk.

J. L. Bays,
First Operator.

Harry Durham,
Second Operator.

Earl McClendon,
Relief Operator.

Dwight Moore,
Meter Reader.

Marvin Hobbs,
Meter Reader.

Glen Thompson,
Meter Reader.

Daniel Kurkiewicz,
Meter Reader.

City Engineer,
Roy Vineyard.

Secretary to Mayor and Commissioners;
Glenn Edwards.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

LEFT TO RIGHT: Fred J. Schultz, Policeman; Ralph R. Newman, Chief of Police; Basil Smothers, Night Policeman.



WATER DEPARTMENT

Harry Durham, second operator; J. L. Bays, first operator; Earl McClendon, third operator; Glen Edwards, billing clerk; Marion J. Moore, water revenue collector; Herman Garner, superintendent.



CITY DUMP GROUND

Five Miles Northwest of Benton

Amos Dunham, Scavenger; David Hampton, Street Cleaner.



STREET DEPARTMENT

Chas. Beal, maintainer; Frank Mandrell, assistant superintendent; Clayton Vaughn, superintendent; A. C. Denham, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

J. F. McCollum,
City Clerk.

Marion J. Moore,
City Treasurer.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Dr. George H. Burkhart,
Health Officer.

David Hampton,
Street Cleaner.

Amos Dunham,
Scavenger.

Cyrus McLearn,
Dump Ground Watchman.

DEPARTMENT OF STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Clayton Vaughn,
Superintendent of Streets.

Frank Mandrell,
Assistant Superintendent of Streets.

Charles Beal,
Street Maintenance.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Dwight Moore,
Fire Chief.

Marvin Hobbs,
Assistant Fire Chief.

Glen Thompson,
Fireman.

Daniel Kurkiewicz,
Fireman.

Building Inspection:

Dwight Moore.

Marvin Hobbs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dwight Moore, chief; Marvin Hobbs, assistant chief; Glen Thompson, fireman; Daniel Kurkiewicz, fireman.

BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Dr. W. A. McKee, President.
Mrs. John R. Foster, Secretary.
George A. Powers, Treasurer.
Mrs. J. Beverly Moore, Member.
Mrs. A. E. Etherton, Member.
Mrs. W. H. Hart, Sr., Member.
Mrs. W. Joe Hill, Member.
Carl Burkhart, Member.
Rev. Wm. A. Askew, Member.
Dorothy Seeber, Librarian.

BENTON YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD

John R. Foster, President.
Mrs. Jack Fitzgerald, Vice President.
Miss Jessie Young, Secretary.
W. E. Armentrout, Treasurer.
Jesse E. Jones, Member.
John H. Oyston, Member.
Miss Mable Webb, Member.



LIBRARY BOARD

Front Row—Left to Right: Mrs. A. E. Etherton, Mrs. W. Joe Hill, Mrs. W. H. Hart, Sr., Mrs. J. Beverly Moore. Back Row: George A. Powers, Carl Burkhardt, Dorothy Seeber, Rev. Wm. A. Askew, Dr. W. A. McKee.



YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD

Front Row—Left to Right: Miss Mable Webb, Miss Jessie Young, Mrs. Jack Fitzgerald. Back Row: John H. Oyston, W. E. Armentrout, John R. Foster, Jesse E. Jones.

MID-TERM REPORT BY THE CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1937

This administration promised certain definite things, which for ready reference are reiterated here.

1. Administer the affairs of our City in a businesslike manner.
2. Promote industry and civic pride.
3. Advocate reduced light and water rates, and secure free street lights and hydrant service as a concession for franchise privileges.
4. Advocate telephone franchise on basis of improved service, reduced rates and a suitable consideration for franchise privilege.
5. Improve the Public Square and remove the buses and trucks.
6. Supervised play for children.
7. Endeavor to amicably bring together the diversified views of all interested parties in all matters pertaining to public welfare.
8. New deal at the City Hall.

We have now reached the half-way mark in the period of service being rendered by your present Mayor and City Commissioners, and in order that you may know that an honest effort has been made to give effect to the pledges that were made, the following report is made.

1. When this administration made an examination to determine the financial condition of the City, we found the following:

Circuit & Federal Court Judgments	\$108,845.52
Cash warrants outstanding	2,800.00
Certificates of indebtedness	9,571.45
Anticipation warrants	5,523.05
Accrued interest	23,568.33
Open account, C. I. P. S. Co.	27,378.01
City Hall & Fire Department Bonds	30,000.00

GROSS CORPORATE INDEBTEDNESS\$207,686.36

Cash on hand:

Bond & interest

Corporate cash

NET CORPORATE INDEBTEDNESS\$183,646.84

It will be noted that the City of Benton was indebted more than twice its legal limit.

This administration immediately resolved:

First: To have an outside Certified Public Accountant make an audit.

Second: Set up an accounting system with complete forms for adequately recording all transactions.

Third: Put the City on a cash basis.

Fourth: Reduce the outstanding indebtedness within the legal limit.

The audit was made immediately, the accounting system was set up, and by reducing salaries and curtailing other expenses to a minimum, the City has been operated on a cash basis.

Through negotiations with judgment holders and other creditors of the City extending over a period of more than a year, with respect to the old indebtedness, compromises were worked out so that by the issue of one \$80,000.00 funding bond issue all of said old indebtedness has been retired.

The financial condition of the City is now as follows:

Judgements outstanding	NONE
Cash warrants outstanding	\$ 300.00
Certificates of indebtedness	700.00
Anticipation warrants	NONE
Accrued interest	2,000.00
Funding Bond Issue	80,000.00
Open accounts	NONE
City Hall & Fire Department Bonds	5,000.00

GROSS CORPORATE INDEBTEDNESS\$ 88,000.00

Cash on hand:

Bond & interest	\$ 5,962.50	
Corporate cash	17,662.98	23,625.48

NET CORPORATE INDEBTEDNESS\$ 64,374.52

Adequate offices with suitable equipment to properly conduct the City's affairs have been established in the City Hall.

2. The widening of South Main Street was completed. Twenty-seven miles of streets within the City Limits have been graded, drained and surfaced by taking advantage of assistance available through the Works Progress Administration. Streets in the Arterial Street System have been oiled and metal culverts installed by co-operation with the State. This program has given needed work to our unemployed, and is of permanent value to our City. Project is now pending which will enable us to complete the grading, draining and surfacing of our auxiliary streets. With the cooperation of State Highway Officials it is planned to widen North Main Street this summer, followed by the widening of East and West Main Streets in 1938.

3. All rates charged by public utility companies operating within the State are fixed by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Following a series of hearings by the Illinois Commerce Commission with respect to rates charged by the Central Illinois Public Service Company, the Illinois Commerce Commission ordered that the practice of basing monthly light bills on the number of rooms of subscriber's house be discontinued and ordered the following so-called "Block" rates be made effective November 1, 1936.

Monthly Residence Rates

Minimum \$1.00—first 12 Kilowatt Hours
.07½—next 25 Kilowatt Hours
.05—next 25 Kilowatt Hours
.03—all over 62 Kilowatt Hours

Ten per cent penalty added if bill not paid within ten days of date rendered.

By granting an extension of 15 years on the Utility Company's franchise, the City obtained:

Free lights for the City Hall.

Free lights for the Library.

Free lights for the Youth Community Center and other Municipal Buildings erected by the City of Benton in the future.

Free lights for the Public Square.

In addition, the new franchise was based on a street lighting contract for 127 street lights (other than those on the Public Square) for an annual consideration of \$1,524.00, payable monthly, and the Utility Company waived payment of over \$13,000.00 due them as their share of the funding bond issue, which money has been placed in the Street Light Fund to pay the monthly bills as they become due. As a further basis for the Light Franchise, the Utility Company agreed to accept \$150,000.00 for the Water Works, although the Water Works System was appraised by our own engineers at \$310,000.00, and stood on the Utility Company books at a slightly greater amount. The water works system was acquired by the City of Benton on January first, 1937, by the issuance of \$150,000.00 Water Revenue Bonds, which were sold at par to Lewis, Pickett & Company, Chicago. These bonds are payable solely out of net earnings of the water works system. The acquisition of the Water Works is saving the City of Benton \$4,000.00 annual fire hydrant rental. In addition to this saving, the Benton Water Department has made sufficient net earnings to provide for water revenue bond and interest charges, and accumulated a favorable reserve. When this reserve fund is sufficient to justify a reduction in minimum monthly water rates without the risk of breaking faith with the water revenue bondholders who furnished the money and thereby made it possible for the City of Benton to own its own water system, a reduction in said minimum monthly rates will be made. The City is bound to maintain existing rates until such time as a reserve fund is accumulated out of earnings made possible by operating economies and increased business. Project providing for the laying of additional water mains and improving the service so that water will be available to more of our citizens is now under active consideration. The Benton Water Department is a separate department created by ordinance giving effect to agreement with bondholders. All funds and accounts of the Benton Water Department are handled separately from the other departments of the City which are supported by general taxation.



LAKE HAMILTON

FILTER PLANT



PUMP AND CONTROL ROOMS



FILTER BEDS



SETTLING BASINS



The Benton Water Department is a self-supporting department, and is saving the taxpayers \$4,000.00 annually by contributing free water to the fire department. It is also providing the Benton Public Library and the Benton Youth Community Center free water.

4. Telephone service within the City Limits has been improved. Modern instruments are now available at nominal cost where desired. Better service is being rendered on the County circuits, and through cooperation of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Engineering Department, much needed transmission lines to further improve the service are under active consideration. Removal of the unsightly transmission lines from the east side of the Public Square is definitely in the Telephone Company's budget for 1938, and if the company can arrange to anticipate their budget allotment for 1938 to the extent necessary, they have promised to do the work this summer. The cooperation exemplified by the Telephone Company now justifies that they be given a suitable franchise, and as a consideration for franchise privilege they will be required to give free telephone service necessary to adequately conduct the business of the City, and in addition make available the use of their poles for police and fire department purposes.

5. The Public Square, through the hearty cooperation of the County Board, has been enlarged and improved. The County Board donated the ground and the City made the improvements. The City has provided a free parking lot immediately adjacent to the Public Square, where the buses load and unload their passengers, where the truckers market coal, and the farmers market their products. The useful and helpful occupancy of this free parking lot has been accomplished by mutual cooperation of the interested parties.

6. The Benton Youth Community Center has been completed as a Works Progress Administration Project. Representing an investment of approximately Ten Thousand Dollars, the building was dedicated March 19, 1937.

A park and athletic stadium to be built on the twenty acres recently acquired by the City is another similar project under active consideration. With Government aid, we hope to erect a stadium with seating capacity for two thousand persons, together with a modern gymnasium. Baseball diamond, band stand and tennis courts are also contemplated. This tract of land extends from Bailey Lane to Seymour Swimming Pool on the East side of the C. & E. I. R. R. It is possible the City may also make some suitable arrangement for operation of Seymour Swimming Pool as an adjunct to the Park and Athletic Stadium.

We must make reasonable plans for the future welfare of our young men and women, and thus assure their future happiness as well as our own. Proper recreation is essential to the development of strong bodies and useful minds.

7. It has been the policy of this Administration to amicably bring together all interested parties in matters in which the public welfare is involved. In carrying out this policy we wish to pay tribute to our churches, to our civic clubs, to our fraternities and to organized labor for the spirit of cooperation and helpfulness they have exemplified.

8. Administrative appointments have been made on the basis of merit and ability. The City Hall is no longer a public loafing place. It is an administrative office for the efficient conduct of the City's business. Departmental work has been coordinated as far as possible to hold the number of employees to a minimum. This policy has enabled us to hold the expense of operating each department in

balance and at the same time restore to the employees some of the wage reductions which we found it necessary to put into effect at the beginning of this administration.

We are not unmindful that there is still room for improvement in the service rendered by the various departments of the City. Time and increased tax collections will be necessary to bring this about. Our tax collections have been materially reduced for two reasons:

First: Valuations have been steadily reduced in Benton as indicated by the following figures:

1930	\$2,697,016
1931	2,396,076
1932	2,101,896
1933	2,148,473
1934	1,827,358
1935	1,783,358
1936	1,713,402

Second: Property values have been reduced by the Board of Review to 60% of what they should be, and still the County Treasurer has been able to collect and remit to the City Treasurer only 64% of the taxes spread on basis of said reduced valuations.

The payment of your taxes is just as important as the payment of your Church subscription, your lodge dues and the assessments of other organizations in whose benefits you participate.

Your City Government gives you service and security—far more than your State or National Government does. It furnishes you water for your bath and your coffee, it inspects the food delivered to your door, provides streets to enable you to get to work, a police department to keep both streets and homes safe, and a fire department to protect your property. Even in a City financially embarrassed these things are indispensable services and are among the cheapest things we buy in life.

We have given unsparingly of our time and experience that our City might be restored to a place in the sun. After two years of consistent effort we now have the City buildings in a good state of repair, the Fire, Police and Street Departments have been provided with sufficient practical and serviceable equipment. Financially, the City is within its legal limit of indebtedness and is operating on a cash basis. We will feel rewarded for our efforts if, now that business conditions generally have improved, our citizens will cooperate with us by paying their taxes, and thus enable your officials to keep your City in a sound financial condition.

We depend on you!

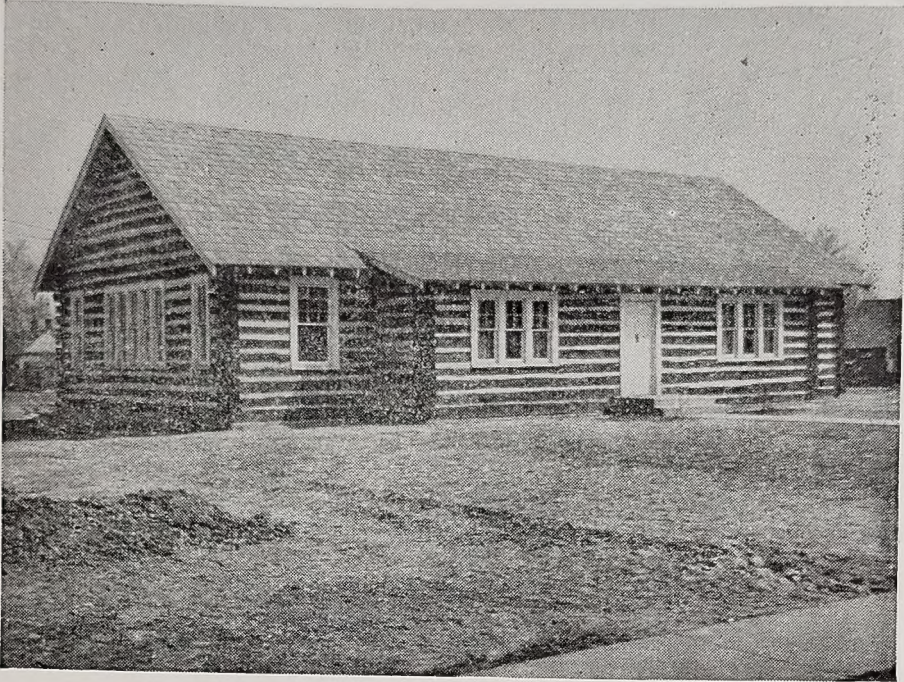
C. Edwin Hair,
Mayor.

Harry H. Prindle,
Commissioner of Accounts and Finance.

Charles A. Jackson, Jr.,
Commissioner of Public Health and Safety.

A. C. Denham,
Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements.

Jesse E. Jones,
Commissioner of Public Property.



BENTON YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER

This Building represents the fulfillment of a pledge to the Youth of Benton, that they might have a building of their own where they might develop their imagination and courage, strengthen their character and judgment, and increase their value as future citizens by learning to live wholesome lives.

As this Building is beautiful in its simplicity and strong in its character, so may the activities conducted within its walls serve to build beauty, simplicity and character in the hearts and lives of our Youth, and develop the greatest degree of pleasure to those with whom they may come in contact.

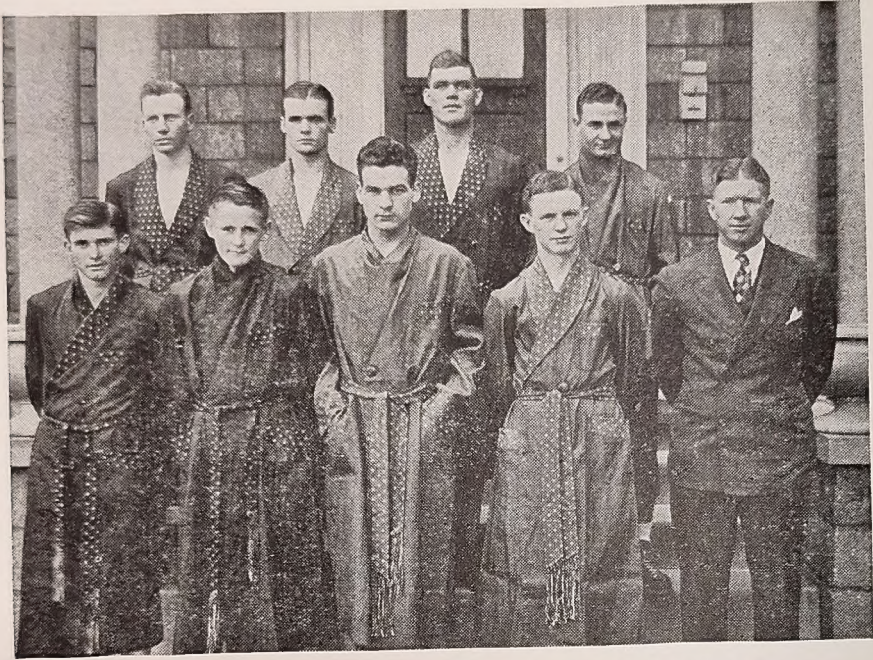
As age multiplies their experiences, matures their judgment, moderates their passions, and develops that spirit of philosophy which God implanted in the very depth of their souls, may they always look back with pleasure to the times spent under this roof, and the part which this institution played in the adjustment of their life's deeds.

May this Building acquire an importance apart from any primary function as a place in which our children work and play. May it give full expression of the Youth of Benton. As an institution, may it be fortunate in that its friends will recognize this fact and provide it with their worthy support, that it may stand through future generations as the visible embodiment of its contribution to the Youth of our City.

To the mental and physical development of the Girls and Boys of Benton, this Building is Dedicated.

March 19, 1937.

C. Edwin Hair,
Mayor.



BENTON'S BOXING CHAMPIONS

Front Row—Left to Right: Bill Rice, 118; Harvey Lawson, 112; James Dillon, 135; Delmar Stewart, 126; Austin Owen, Supervisor and Instructor. Back Row: Denver Corn, 147; James Cosgrove, 160; Walter Johnson, heavyweight; Paul Swofford, 175.

If we are to have good government, if we are to maintain our great representative democracy, if our children are to have the blessings of liberty and freedom of opportunity, then all of us, all the time, must be willing to fulfill our several responsibilities at whatsoever cost.

We need in public office, not men who have made failures in private life, but those who have made a success; and if successful men are not patriotic enough to perform their part of this common responsibility of government, then they have no just cause to complain.

We need direct, fair and intelligent cooperation from our citizens.

A good citizen will follow executive leadership, which appeals to his better judgment, rather than political leadership, which appeals to his prejudices—will obey the law, and strive to quicken a public sense of civic duty.

If the time spent in wholesale criticism were concentrated on helpful cooperation, we would have a wonderful government.

